

Inventorship

Applicants have filed a request for correction of the inventorship in the above-identified application pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) as a separate paper.

Prior Art Rejections

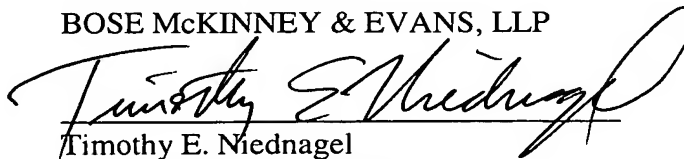
Claim 27 was rejected under for same invention double patenting in view of claim 32 of U.S. Patent No. 6,182,310. In the telephonic interview with the Examiner on October 17, 2002, an agreement was reached that these claims differ sufficiently in scope to avoid a same invention double patenting rejection. A terminal disclaimer is included herewith in order to overcome any potential obviousness-type double patenting rejection in view of the '310 patent.

Claims 27-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,732,423 to Weismiller et al. As agreed upon by the Examiner in the telephonic interview the Weismiller '423 patent has the same filing date (August 4, 1995) as the earliest priority date of the present application. Therefore the Weismiller patent is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection be withdrawn and claims 27-47 be allowed.

In the event that there are any questions related to these amendments or to the application in general, the undersigned would appreciate the opportunity to address those questions directly in a telephone interview to expedite the prosecution of this application for all concerned.

Respectfully submitted,

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